

REMARKS

The final Office action mailed on 12 January 2004 (Paper No. 20040105) has been carefully considered. Allowance of claims 1, 3 thru 6, 8 thru 17 and 20 thru 22 (PTO form PTOL-326 of Paper No. 20040105) is appreciated.

Claims 18 and 19 are being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 20 and 22 are being amended. Thus, claims 1, 3 thru 6, 8 thru 17 and 20 thru 22 are pending in the application.

On page 2 of the final Office action, the Examiner objected to claim 20 for an informality in that it was unclear to the Examiner as to “whether the width of the first partition portion is greater than both the second and third partition portions” (quoting from page 2, lines 5-6 of the final Office action). The Examiner's interpretation is correct; the width of the first partition portions is greater than both the width of the second partition portions and the width of the third partition portions. Therefore, claim 20 is being amended to recite the latter feature more precisely and in a manner consistent with the Examiner's stated interpretation. Accordingly, the objection to claim 20 no longer applies, and should be withdrawn.

Dependent claim 22 is being amended to correct a minor error. Thus, entry of this Amendment After Final is appropriate since no new issues are raised and no further

consideration by the Examiner is necessary.

On pages 3-4 of the Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102 for alleged anticipation by Hashimoto *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,603,263. Claims 18 and 19 are being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance, and early issuance thereof is solicited. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's attorney.

No fee is incurred by this Amendment After Final.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert E. Bushnell,
Attorney for the Applicant
Registration No.: 27,774

1522 "K" Street N.W., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 408-9040

Folio: P56649
Date: 4/7/04
I.D.: REB/JGS